



Klein Marks Historic Opening of Scripps Florida

Biotech hub will create thousands of local jobs

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today marked the grand opening of the Scripps Research Institute, a cutting-edge biotech hub which will create thousands of local jobs in the coming years. As a member of the Florida State Senate, Klein played a critical role in bringing Scripps to Palm Beach County.

In a letter to be read on his behalf at today's opening, Klein called Scripps Florida "our local stimulus plan" which will create thousands of good jobs and "a successful public-private partnership that should be a model for others in the future."

Upon returning home to South Florida, Klein will take a special Grand Opening tour of the Scripps facility, beginning at 10:30 AM on Friday, February 27.

The full text of the letter can be found below.

February 26, 2009

Thank you all for coming to the historic grand opening of Scripps Florida. I cannot adequately express my regret for not being here in person, but I had to stay in Washington as Congress considers critical legislation. In my absence, I want to personally thank Dr. Lerner for all his vision and leadership in bringing Scripps to Florida, and I want to also thank Dr. Harry Orf, State Senator Ken Pruitt, the Palm Beach County Commission, State Senator Jeff Atwater, Mike Jones, President of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, and Kelly Smallridge, President of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County. As you can see, bringing Scripps to Florida was a successful public-private partnership that should be a model for others in the future.

Everyone present can also attest that Scripps Florida was a long time in coming. I was serving in the Florida State Senate when we began our work with Governor Bush six years ago. Our goal was to diversify Florida's economy by bringing cutting-edge biomedical research to Florida. These jobs are ones that parents all across the country would wish for their kids: scientists and

researchers with advanced degrees working to find cures to society's diseases. And with the higher incomes from these jobs will come greater spending in Palm Beach—trickling through our small businesses and our tax base. In short, Scripps Florida is our local stimulus plan. This prestigious institute will also serve as beacon of education for our children. They'll know that science is not an esoteric subject to be studied in textbooks, but that science comes alive, right here, in their very own backyards. And that men and women just like them are using science to fight cancer, fight diabetes, and fight Alzheimer's. To borrow Scripps's slogan, our children will see that this is "research that fuels hope."

Once again, I want to thank everyone for coming out to celebrate this truly historic day, and for your hard work in making Scripps Florida a reality. Helping get to this day is one of my proudest accomplishments as a public servant, and I know that everyone here feels the same.

Very Truly Yours,
Ron Klein
Member of Congress

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